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Agenda item 64

Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Third Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Khalid **Alwafi** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled:

"Promotion and protection of human rights:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

"(e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. An account of the Third Committee's consideration of the item is given in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in six parts, under the symbol A/63/430 and Add.1-5.

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Item 64
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 8 July 2008 from the representative of Italy to the Secretary-General (A/63/123)

Letter dated 30 June 2008 from the representative of Cuba to the Secretary-General (A/63/281-S/2008/431)

Identical letters dated 19 September 2008 from the representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (A/63/370-S/2008/614)

Letter dated 20 October 2008 from the representative of Azerbaijan to the Secretary-General (A/63/497-S/2008/668)

Letter dated 20 September 2008 from the representatives of Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Norway and Qatar to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/63/5)

Item 64 (a)
Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its seventh and eighth sessions[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/63/220)

Note by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/63/137)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/63/175)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their twentieth meeting (A/63/280)

Item 64 (b)
Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/63/259)

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/63/272)

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/63/287)

Report of the Secretary-General on moratoriums on the use of the death penalty (A/63/293 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on missing persons (A/63/299)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 48* (A/63/48).

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/63/337)

Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/63/340)

Report of the Secretary-General on combating defamation of religions (A/63/365)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (A/63/367)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/63/161)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/63/223)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (A/63/263)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/63/270)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (A/63/271)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty (A/63/274)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (A/63/275)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (A/63/278)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons (A/63/286)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (A/63/288)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (A/63/289)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/63/290)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/63/292)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/63/313)

Note by the Secretary-General providing information on the work of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee relating to the right to development (A/63/318)

Note by the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/63/486)

Item 64 (c)
Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/63/322)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (A/63/326)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/63/332)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/63/341)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/63/356)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/63/459)

Letter dated 17 October 2008 from the representative of Myanmar to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/63/4)

Letter dated 3 November 2008 from the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/63/6)

Item 64 (d)
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights[2]

Letter dated 7 October 2008 from the representative of Austria to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/63/3)

Item 64 (e)
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the optional protocol thereto (A/63/264 and Corr.1)

II. Consideration of a draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At its 48th meeting, on 25 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents considered in connection with the question of human rights (see para. 5).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 36* (A/63/36).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

5. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly takes note of the following reports submitted under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights":

Under sub-item (a):

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies on their twentieth meeting.[1]

Under sub-item (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights;[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants;[3]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;[4]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;[5]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises;[6]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers;[7]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty;[8]

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context;[9]

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[1] A/63/280.
[2] A/63/259.
[3] A/63/287.
[4] A/63/223.
[5] A/63/263.
[6] A/63/270.
[7] A/63/271.
[8] A/63/274.
[9] A/63/275.

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his Representative on the human rights of internally displaced persons;[10]

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;[11]

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;[12]

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[13]

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education;[14]

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;[15]

(o) Note by the Secretary-General providing information on the work of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee relating to the right to development.[16]

Under sub-item (c):

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.[17]

Under sub-item (d):

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.[18]

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[10] A/63/286.
[11] A/63/288.
[12] A/63/289.
[13] A/63/290.
[14] A/63/292.
[15] A/63/313.
[16] A/63/318.
[17] A/63/326.
[18] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 36* (A/63/36).